

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 150192
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SP-02 HA-05 IO-13 EB-08
SS-15 L-03 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /062 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, ET, US

SUBJECT: CRS SUPPORT TO ASMARA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2601

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES REFTTEL BUT REMAINS DUBIOUS ABOUT
USG PARTICIPATION IN CRS SUPPORT TO ASMARA, INCLUDING
PROVISION OF TITLE II COMMODITIES. CONCERN HERE IS THAT AT
LEAST SOME OF FOOD WILL FIND ITS WAY INTO MILITARY HANDS.
DEPTOFF RECALLS THAT TITLE II FOOD SENT TO ERITREA IN LATE
1974 DISAPPEARED INTO ARMY HANDS IN EARLY 1975. IT WAS
DECIDED THEN THAT NO FURTHER TITLE II WOULD GO INTO ERITREA
UNTIL EFFECTIVE REPORTING PROCEDURES WERE ESTABLISHED.
DEPTOFF ALSO RECALLS THAT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS HAVE
VERY POOR RECORD FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN ASMARA REGION
AND THERE IS CLEAR EVIDENCE OF ARMY SEIZURES OF DIFFERENT
INTERNATIONAL FOOD DONATIONS.

2. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, DEPARTMENT IS SKEPTICAL THAT CRS
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ETHIOPIAN STAFF WOULD REPRESENT EFFECTIVE MONITORS OF FOOD
DISTRIBUTION SINCE WE DOUBT THEY WOULD FEEL FREE REPORT
DIVERSIONS. WE HAVE SIMILAR DOUBTS ABOUT POSSIBLE USE FOR
THIS PURPOSE OF THIRD-COUNTRY NATIONALS RESIDENT IN
ASMARA UNDER CONTRACT TO CRS. WE ASSUME THAT SENDING OF
NON-ETHIOPIAN CRS PERSONNEL INTO ASMARA IS EITHER NOT
PERMITTED BY PMGSE OR IS NOT CONSIDERED ADVISABLE.

WE ARE, HOWEVER, PREPARED TO CONSIDER SUGGESTIONS
EMBASSY/USAID MAY HAVE FOR REDUCING OUR DOUBTS TO
ACCEPTABLE LEVEL. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY
COMMENT ON POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES IF WE WERE TO DECLINE
TO CONTRIBUTE TO CRS PROJECT IN ASMARA. WOULD POSSIBLE
ADVERSE REACTION BE MITIGATED BY US CONCENTRATION ON WOLLO
AND LOCUST PROBLEM RATHER THAN POLITICALLY-DIFFICULT
ASMARA RELIEF SCHEME? WE FAVOR IMMEDIATE US ACTION ON
FORMER. WE HAVE RESERVATION ABOUT ASMARA. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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